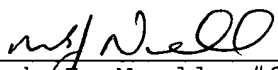

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for continued examination on the merits. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Mark G. Nuell, #36,623

760-262P
DRN:rk

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000